



# *The United States Army Band*

## *"Pershing's Own"*

Col. Thomas Rotondi, Jr., Leader and Commander  
Sgt. Major Ross N. Morgan, Jr., Enlisted Leader

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## *The U.S. Army Band "Pershing's Own"*

The U.S. Army Band "Pershing's Own," has been the premier musical organization of the U.S. Army since 1922. Army Chief of Staff General John J. "Black Jack" Pershing founded the band, emulating European military bands he had heard during the first world war. "Pershing's Own" continues to play an important role in events of national and international significance, and leads every inaugural parade, a tradition begun in 1925 with the inauguration of President Calvin Coolidge.

The band became widely known during its early years for radio broadcasts featured on several networks. During World War II, the band was ordered overseas and performed throughout North Africa and Europe, becoming the only Washington-based band to participate in a theater of war. While in France, The U.S. Army Band received a battle streamer embroidered "Rhine-land 1944-1945." Since then, the band has expanded in scope and diversity, establishing several regular performing ensembles: The U.S. Army Concert Band, The U.S. Army Ceremonial Band, The U.S. Army Strings, The U.S. Army Chorus, The U.S. Army Herald Trumpets, The U.S. Army Blues *jazz ensemble*, The U.S. Army Chorale, and The U.S. Army Brass Quintet.



Today the musicians of "Pershing's Own" render musical honors on a regular basis for foreign dignitaries, heads of state, diplomats, high-ranking military officers, and recently participated in the state funeral of former President Ronald Reagan. The Army Band also plays a vital role in music education, often serving as the featured group at prominent music conferences and conventions throughout the nation and abroad.

The band performs outdoor concerts during the summer months on the West steps of the U.S. Capitol and throughout the Washington area. "Pershing's Own" and the 3rd U.S. Infantry (the Old Guard) also present "Twilight Tattoo," a military pageant on the grounds of the Ellipse, near the White House. During the cooler months, concerts and recitals are held inside Brucker Hall, The Army Band's home located on historic Fort Myer in Arlington, VA.

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